

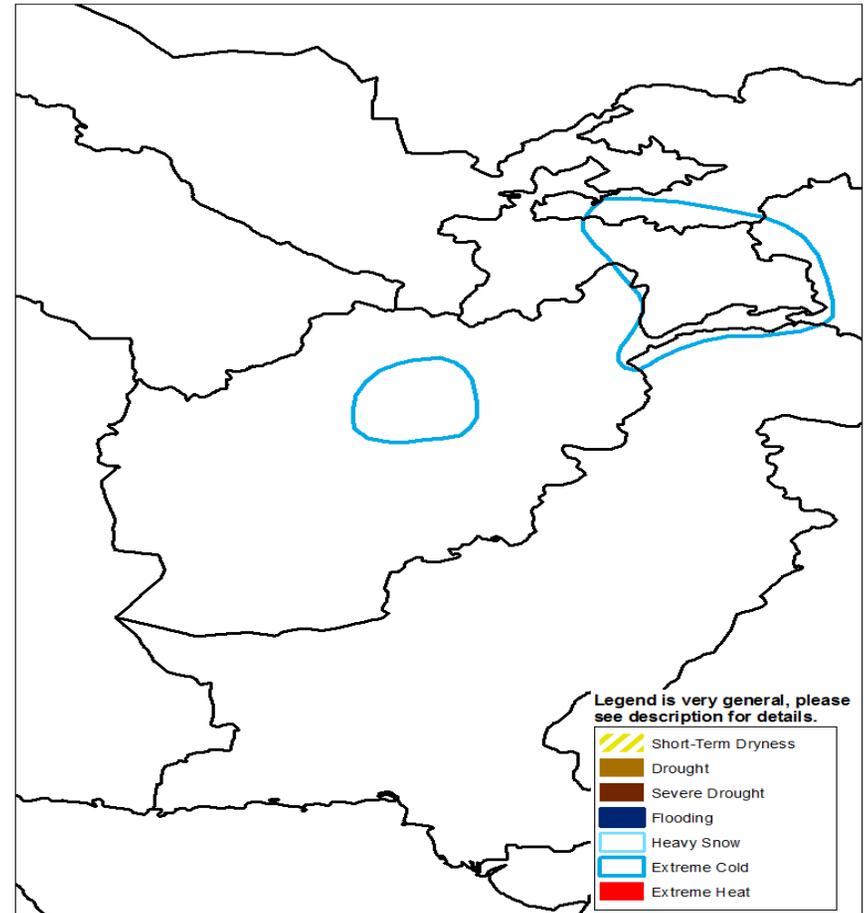
Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 28 – January 3, 2011

Temperatures:

During early and mid-December, temperatures averaged near to below normal across all of Afghanistan, a major difference from the above normal to well above normal temperatures that affected Afghanistan for the last several months. Below normal temperatures are forecast across most of Afghanistan for a fourth consecutive week. The largest negative anomalies (> 8 degrees C below normal) are expected in the central highlands and northern Afghanistan. Minimum temperatures may fall to between -35 to -40 degrees C in the northeast mountains and -25 to -30 degrees C in the central highlands where extreme cold hazards are posted.

Precipitation

Snow coverage decreased during the past week as little precipitation was recorded across Afghanistan. Higher elevations in the central and northeast portions of Afghanistan, though, maintained snow coverage. Weekly precipitation totals were less than 5 mm, liquid equivalent and focused over the northern half of Afghanistan. Due to the lack of precipitation during the month of December, seasonal precipitation totals in the northeast have dropped to near to below normal. For next week, little precipitation is expected, prolonging the dry conditions across Afghanistan.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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